

ORDER NO. 565

FOREST DEVELOPMENT ROADS and TRAILS

OKANOGAN-WENATCHEE NATIONAL FOREST

Pursuant to 36 CFR 261.50(b), the following acts are prohibited on National Forest System (NFS) Roads No. 4510 and No. 4517 as shown on the attached map within the Cle Elum Ranger District on the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest.

1. **Using any type of vehicle prohibited by the order.** For the purpose of this order, this restriction applies to all wheeled motorized vehicles except snowmobiles operating on snow on NFS Road No. 4510 beginning at the junction with Woods and Steele County Road (T19N R15E Sec. 7) or at the location of sign or barricade, and ending at a closed gate at the boundary with Plum Creek Timber Company property (T19N R14E Sec. 10); and NFS Road No. 4517 beginning at the junction with Fowler Creek Road (T19N R14E Sec. 3) or at the location of sign or barricade, to its terminus (T20N R14E Sec. 31). (36 CFR 261.54 (a)).

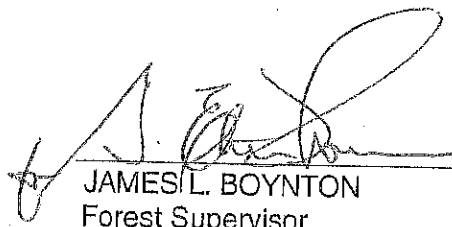
This restriction is effective when each road is posted and seasonal snowmobile trail grooming activities begin each year. Placement of signs and/or barricades will vary pending snow depth and grooming activities.

Pursuant to 36 CFR Sec. 261.50(e), the following persons are exempt from this order:

- 1) Persons with a permit specifically authorizing the otherwise prohibited act or omission.
- 2) Any Federal, State, or local officer, or member of an organized rescue or fire fighting force in the performance of an official duty.

These prohibitions are in addition to general prohibitions in 36 CFR Part 261, Subpart A.

Done at Wenatchee, Washington this 18th day of November, 2005.



JAMES L. BOYNTON
Forest Supervisor
Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest

Violations of these prohibitions are punishable by a fine of not more than \$5,000 for an individual or \$10,000 for an organization, or imprisonment for not more than 6 months, or both. (16 USC 551 and 18 USC 3559 and 3571).

Assessment of Need and Enforcement Plan

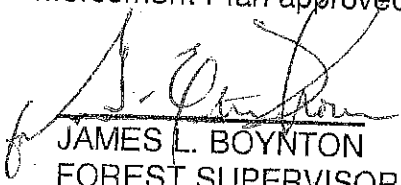
1. Background. FS Roads 4510 and 4517 are groomed snowmobile routes during the winter months. Shared use between wheeled vehicle traffic and snowmobile traffic on the same road presents a safety hazard to snowmobile users and diminishes trail grooming and route connectivity.

2. Intent of Subpart B order. This order provides for public safety and protects existing winter recreation opportunities.

3. Enforcement Plan. The following activities need to occur to implement this special order in a manner that results in public acceptance and safety:

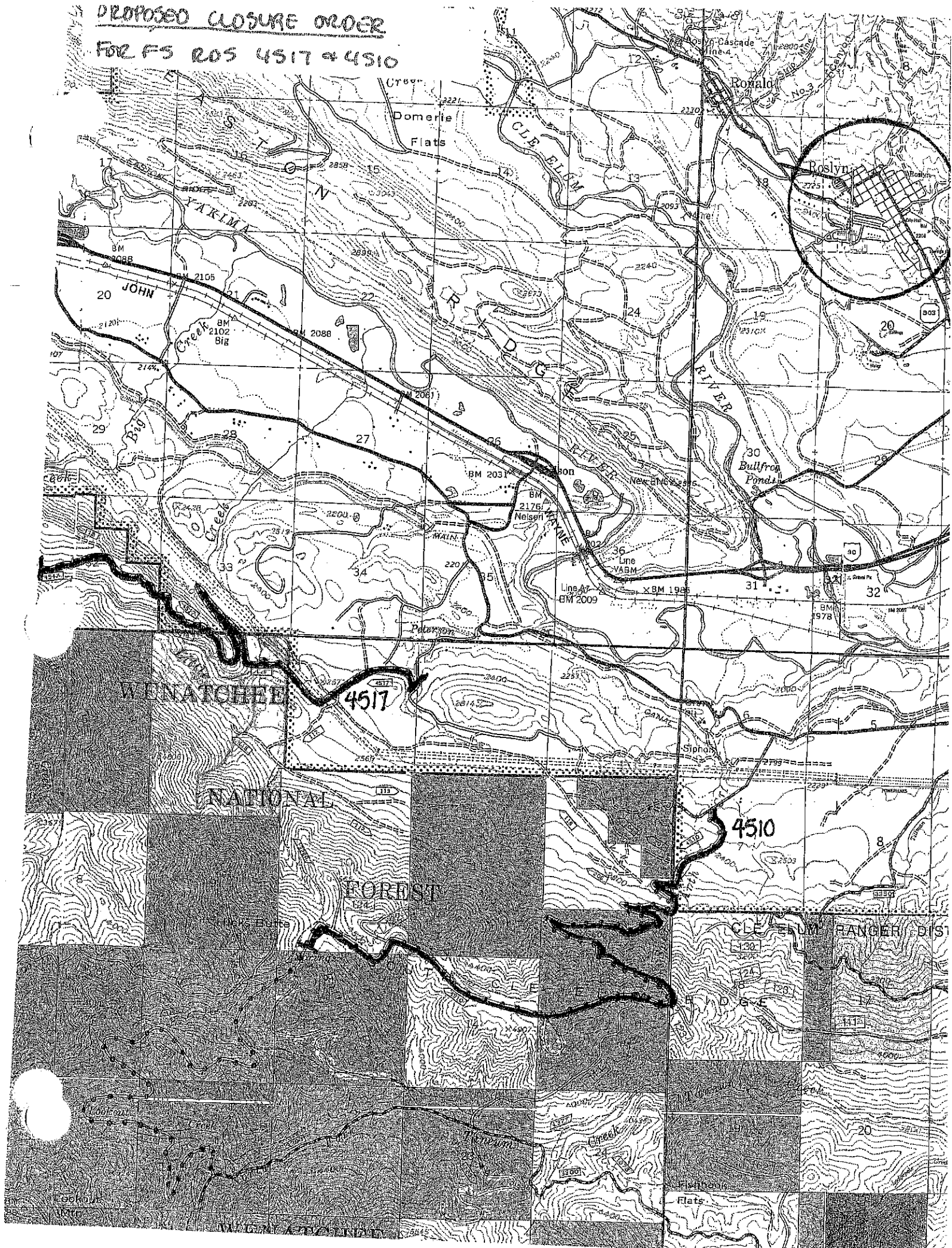
<u>Action</u>	<u>Responsible Official</u>	<u>Date</u>
Prepare proposed order	Todd Stiles with LEO Captain Jeff Roundy	11/09/05
Review proposed order	LEO Captain Jeff Roundy	11/10/05
Approve proposed order	Forest Supervisor	11/17/05
Post order in accordance with 36 CFR 261.51	District Staff	Dependent on snow depth & grooming schedule
Prepare formal letter for local property owners describing the order and management objectives	District Ranger PAO, Appropriate Staff	11/17/05
Describe implementation/action taken for order, such as planned patrols, enforcement strategies, tolerance, contacts to local public agencies. Implement plan.	Appropriate Staff LEO/field going personnel patrolling by vehicle and snowmobile	Throughout the Winter Months in conjunction with closure being posted

Enforcement Plan approved for implementation:


JAMES L. BOYNTON
FOREST SUPERVISOR
OKANOGAN-WENATCHEE NATIONAL FOREST

11/18/2005
DATE

PROPOSED CLOSURE ORDER
FOR FS ROS 4517 & 4510





United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Okanogan and Wenatchee
National Forests
Cle Elum Ranger District

803 West Second Street
Cle Elum, WA 98922
(509) 852-1100

File Code: 5460-2

Date:

Section 3 Landowners
Forest Service Road 4517

Cle Elum, WA 98922

Dear Landowner:

I would like to make you aware of a road closure that will be in effect on Forest Service road (FSR) 4517 during the winter months. The reason for the closure is to avoid conflict between snowmobiles and wheeled vehicles and provide for the safety of the snowmobile operators.

FSR 4517 from its junction with FSR 4517117 (and including FSR 4517117) has been groomed for winter recreation/snowmobile traffic under a cooperative program with Washington State Parks and Recreation for many years. As road manager, the Forest Service must provide for the safety of those who use the groomed route, therefore Forest Service roads used as part of the Snowmobile Trail Grooming Program are closed to wheeled vehicles. FSR 4517 and 4517117 are part of a linked system between Easton and the Taneum drainage. If I were to allow wheeled vehicle traffic on these roads, I would then have to close that link in the snowmobile trail system.

Under the closure order I am able to permit landowners to access their property. If your property is below the junction of FSR 4517117 and 4517, by this letter you may use the road during the closure period to drive to your property. If your land is beyond the junction of FSR 4517 and FSR 4517117, you may need to use an alternate means to access it in winter. No snow removal or wheeled vehicle traffic is allowed beyond the junction. Please see the enclosed map for clarification of the junction of these two roads.

Be aware that snow removal requires prior approval and specifications from the Forest Service. Our concern is for protecting the road, users of the road, and the investment the United States has in the road.

Damaging a Forest Service System road is a violation of the Code of Federal Regulations at 36 CFR 261.12 (c); Damaging and leaving in a damaged condition any such road, trail or segment thereof.

I regret any inconvenience this closure may cause you. I am willing to try to find solutions to the situation that has come about by development of land around these snow groomed routes. We have looked at alternative routes to using this particular road but alternate routes have proven impossible to negotiate due to steep topography. I am open to hearing suggestions, however allowing dual use of snowmobiles and wheeled vehicles will not be an option on this road. Please call or write this office if you have suggestions or alternatives.

Sincerely,

RODNEY D SMOLDON
District Ranger

